

## **EXECUTIVE**

### **7 JANUARY 2020**

#### **Present:**

Councillors Dewhirst (Deputy Leader), J Hook, Connett, Jeffries, Taylor and Wrigley

#### **Members in Attendance:**

Councillors Bradford, Bullivant, Clarence, Daws, Mullone, Nutley, Purser and Russell

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors G Hook and MacGregor

#### **Officers in Attendance:**

Charles Acland, Self Build Project Officer

Donna Best, Estates & Development Manager

Fergus Pate, Principal Delivery Officer

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Phil Shears, Managing Director

David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager

Martin Flitcroft, The Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

## **1. MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting on the 28 November 2019, subject to minute no.95 to include seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and IT, were approved and signed as a correct record.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **3. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN**

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

## **4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The public questions and members responses are attached to the minutes.

In response to the supplementary questions the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services commented that it was the desire of the Council to ensure that the Bowling Clubs continued to operate and thrive. He would ensure that there was consultation with the Bowling Clubs on the emerging Leisure Strategy.

## 5. INITIAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2020/21

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services presented the report to consider the initial financial plan proposals 2020/21 to 2022/23 to be published for comments over the next six weeks and recommend to Council the council tax base for 2020/21. He brought Members' attention to the main issues that had been taken into account when drafting these initial plans. It was proposed to increase the level of council tax by £5, the maximum allowed without having to hold a referendum. The Council currently kept 9% per week of the total council tax collected for its services, 4% went to parish and town councils for their local precepts. A council tax base of 49,714 was recommended to Council.

Members were advised of the budget pressures that the Council would face in the medium term, the savings that had been identified, and the significant drop in government funding and cost changes that currently and in future years would affect the Council.

Non-Executive Members raised concerns regarding the proposals to abolish the rural aid funding and reduce the councillor community grant funding as this would have a greater impact on the rural communities in the district who already had fewer resources available to them. Members should look at a meaningful sacrifice scheme in respect of the allowances they receive.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services commented that the financial plan proposals were currently out for consultation and that Overview and Scrutiny Committee would have the opportunity to bring forward their suggestions for Council to consider. Members have the option to forgo part or all of their allowance.

The recommendation was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Waste Management & Environmental Health.

**RECOMMENDED** to Council that it approves the council tax base of 49,714 for 2020/21 at appendix 2.

## 6. ELECTRIC VEHICLES POLICY

The Portfolio Holder for Waste Management & Environmental Health presented the report to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Electric Vehicles (EV) Policy.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change Emergency & Housing advised that following on from their original consultation response Devon County Council had raised a suggestion that new public car parks, commercial car parks and redevelopments\expansions of existing employment sites should include provision for EV charging. Therefore an amendment was proposed to the policy section that currently reads 'requiring all future residential development proposals (with off street parking) to be "electric ready" to accommodate EV

charging' to *'requiring all future residential development proposals (with off street parking) and non-residential developments of 10 or more off-highway vehicle parking spaces should be "electric ready" to accommodate EV charging in accordance with the local plan policies.'*

Non-Executive Members commented on the need to ensure that there were adequate charging points by taking advantage of under used areas council owned car parks and how future advances in electric vehicles could affect the requirements and need of charging points.

The recommendation with the amendment was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change Emergency & Housing and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Waste Management & Environmental Health.

**RESOLVED** the Electric Vehicles, Infrastructure and Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Policy be approved subject to the following amendment to the policy section of *'requiring all future residential development proposals (with off street parking) and non-residential developments of 10 or more off-highway vehicle parking spaces should be "electric ready" to accommodate EV charging in accordance with the local plan policies.'*

#### **7. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL SERVICE DEVOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFER POLICY**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources presented the report to provide an update on progress to deliver the outcomes required by the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

The recommendation was proposed by Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Waste Management & Environmental Health.

**RESOLVED** that the:-

- (1) 'Town and Parish Council Service Devolution & Asset Transfer Policy' be adopted; and
- (2) application process be made available on-line as well as in paper format.

#### **8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Portfolio Holder for Waste Management & Environmental Health proposed, seconded by Portfolio Holder for Planning that because of the financial sensitivity the meeting go into Part II session and exclude the press and public.

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**9. BOWLING CLUB PREMISES ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources presented the report to establish the level of subsidy to be provided to Bowling Club tenants beyond 2021.

Non-Executive Members raised concerns regarding support for the Bowling Clubs to ensure that they remained viable and could continue.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources clarified that full consultation would take place with the clubs involved.

The recommendation with an amendment was proposed by Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and seconded Portfolio Holder for Waste Management & Environmental Health.

**RESOLVED** that the course of action set out in the conclusion of the circulated report, subject to the amendment, be approved.

**10. HOWTON FIELD CUSTOM BUILD - CONTRACT AWARD**

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented the report to approve that the Business Manager for Spatial Planning and Delivery had delegated authority to appoint a Development Partner for Howton Field following a European Union (EU) compliant tender process. This development would be a high quality energy efficient custom built housing scheme.

The recommendation was proposed by Portfolio Holder for Planning and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Climate Change Emergency & Housing.

**RESOLVED** the Business Manager for Spatial Planning and Delivery in consultation with the other members of the Evaluation Panel be granted delegated authority to appoint a development partner in accordance with the tender process addressed in this report and to complete the associated agreements.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.42 am.

Chairman

**Public Questions****Executive 7 January 2020****1) Member of Public****Question 1**

1) I welcome the topic under item 11 of the agenda and am pleased that this is being looked at for action after 2021, however my first question is why is this being discussed effectively in secret away from the press and public scrutiny?

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

*The council normally discusses commercially sensitive matters, including those around legal agreements, rent and terms between the Council and occupants/tenants/organisations during the Confidential part of a meeting. In essence, the report sets out the background and the range of options available to the council and makes a recommendation about next steps, including discussions with the various clubs.*

**Question 2**

2) Bowling clubs play an important role within the community particularly for the over 60's of the community. They help with their health, their social contacts and generally their wellbeing. The clubs are not simply limited to the elderly but they also attract a younger element who can progress through club, and county to international.. Thus we have a mix of all generations. The clubs are conveniently distributed across the district which enables ease of access without too much resort to car use, an important consideration for helping the climate on which I know the council are keen. During previous years TDC have produced important documents which focus on the way ahead for the community. Documents entitled "Teignbridge Local Plan" and "Teignbridge Ten" both stress the importance of recreational facilities for all age groups and the serious consideration which has to be given when considering their removal or replacement. Thus can assurance be given that when discussing Bowling Greens they will be viewed as a community asset and considered as under item WE13 in the "Teignbridge Local Plan" and the "Out and about and active" part of the "Teignbridge Ten" and the decision makers understand the achievement of the clubs and they are not simply regarded as an item in the accounts?

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

*We do recognise the value of the bowling clubs and wish to continue working with them. Today's report is the first step in that process. Teignbridge Council does recognise the value of supporting the community to become more active including through use of its leisure centres and green spaces. Participation in Council run activities has increased by over 20% in the last couple of years and people over 60 are significant customers of our leisure centres: We average 25,000 participants a quarter, including taking up swimming, gym membership and classes. In addition, we have health walks, outdoor exercise classes and green space volunteer events.*

### **Question 3**

TDC have a pivotal role to play with respect to this topic. There are certainly many serious issues which have to be addressed in these difficult times and choices have to be made. This one of bowling clubs in the area can be addressed in one of two ways, TDC could simply accept that this is not for them and pass responsibility totally on to clubs which would certainly result in a reduction of greens with no obvious better use for the land, or they could take a route which said let us work with the clubs and the Town and Parish Councils and even Bowls Devon perhaps, to clearly understand the role which clubs play in the community, the issue concerning the maintenance of facilities and develop a forward plan which is practical and of benefit to all parties. Which of these options is closest to the objectives of TDC?

#### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

*This report is very much about the start of a process which will involve the clubs. I very much welcome the suggestion that Town and Parish Councils and perhaps other relevant organisations may also be engaged.*

### **2) Member of Public**

#### **Question 1**

I am the Treasurer and Greens Manager for the Marina Bowling Club, Sandy Lane, Dawlish. Having heard from reliable sources, I am somewhat concerned about the future of our club having tried to get some answers from the portfolio holder. If it forced upon us to take over the maintenance of the green once our lease expires, we do not have the finance or the age of membership to carry out that responsibility. Our membership is mostly over the age of 60. Any younger players are still working or at school. During last season 3452 persons played bowls at our club and this would be a great loss for all those concerned. Our green is open to passing visitor footfall during the season. That facility would be lost. We could be left with no bowling club in Dawlish.

**Q. WHAT CAN YOU OFFER THOSE PLAYERS, AS AN ALTERNATIVE SPORT SHOULD THE CLUB CLOSE?**

#### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

*We are not anticipating the closure of any of the bowling clubs and at this time. We are looking to open discussions with the various clubs mindful that many of the leases expire next year. We want to begin those discussions at the earliest opportunity and work positively with the clubs.*

## **Question 2**

Dealing with item 11 behind closed doors infers to me that you are concerned about future votes as you will be affecting a lot of the older voters who are wise and if you look at what happened at the last general election to both Labour and Lib Dems be careful. We do not forget and it is likely your term of office will be sort lived. One of Teignbridge's 10 is to encourage the Older demographic to play sport and be active. Taking away a facility that gets them out and amongst the community would be not go down well with those voters.

**Q. WHY HAVE YOU FOUND IT NECESSARY TO HOLD THIS DEBATE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?**

### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

*I do appreciate the concern behind the question. However, I give my reassurance that it is usual for organisations to discuss property and related matters which are commercially sensitive during the confidential part of a meeting.*

## **Question 3**

If you take the decision to hand back maintenance to these bowling clubs and they decide to hand them back, you will be left with assets that no longer bring in revenue to you but will still incur costs. They cannot be sold due to their location. Bowling clubs in TDC area host Touring sides throughout the playing season. Our club alone have EIGHT teams visiting this year. They stay in the area and when not playing bowls, spend money with local business.

**Q. WHAT PLANS DO YOU HAVE IN PLACE TO MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL IN THE BUDGET?**

### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**

*I am delighted to read from the questions about the number of people and visiting clubs using bowling clubs. We do not want to see bowling clubs close but with many of the leases expiring next year, we do need to begin discussions with clubs to work through the future options. It would be short sighted of us, knowing the leases are coming to a close, not to begin the process of talking with the clubs.*

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